

Allen, H. D.

1915-1918

21 Winter St.  
Boston Mass  
Feb. 20/15

Gentlemen:

The Boston Public Library  
has referred me to you.

- ① What private parties or Societies  
have a good collection of the  
paper money of the Confederate  
States of America? Names please  
& addresses where such could  
be seen.
- ② Who has the best collection  
of any one you know?  
Name & address?
- ③ Names & addresses of some  
dealers who have such  
money to sell.

I am trying to assemble a collection  
to be framed & presented to a  
public library. I understand a

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collection consists of nearly  
90 pieces. I have 46.

④ Have you in your library a  
copy of

"Currency of the Confederate States of America"  
Edited by W<sup>m</sup> Lee M. D.  
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If so, could I get the loan of it  
by giving highest N.Y. references  
& paying ships. both ways?  
Not in Boston Public Library,  
Boston Athenaeum nor Massachu-  
setts State Library.

Truly H. W. Allen

Southem states  
Confederate 1695  
Christy  
Only 1375

February 24th, 1915.

Mr. H. D. Allen,  
21 Winter Street,  
Boston.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of February 20th came duly to hand. You will find a very large collection of Confederate paper money in the Connecticut State Library at Hartford being a part of the Joseph C. Mitchelson Numismatic Collection.

This Society has a collection of over fifteen hundred specimens of Confederate paper money, and about seventeen hundred specimens of notes issued by various southern states, and by banks and corporations in the southern states.

As regards private collections, I might name Mr. William Bradbeer, <sup>153 Prospect Avenue</sup> Mt. Vernon, New York; Mr. A. Atlas Leve, P. O. Box 495, Syracuse, New York; and Mr. George H. Blake, 13 Highland Avenue, Jersey City, New Jersey.

I enclose a list of the principal coin dealers in this country, most of whom deal in paper money, to which might be added Mr. Luther B. Tuthill, South Creek, Beaufort County, North Carolina, who deals exclusively in paper money.

The Currency of the Confederate States of American by William Lee, M. D. is in the library of this Society, where it can be consulted at any time. This is entirely a reference library, and we



do not loan books even to our own members.

Trusting that this information will answer your purpose, I am,

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

Wch. 6<sup>th</sup> 1915

My dear Sir:-

It was certainly very good of you to write me as fully as you did on Feb-24 in regard to the Confed. Mower a small collection of which I am getting ready to frame for a Public Library.

I have still been unable to find the Book "Curvey of the Confed. States of America" by Wm Lee M.W. so I guess I shall have to wait till some time when I come over to N.Y. & then go up & see it at your room, which I feel sure you will allow me to do. In the meantime

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Will you take a glance  
at the book, & let me know  
how large a book it is & also  
whether it has pictures or plates  
in it & whether it would be  
of much assistance to me in  
arranging my collection.

The point is this, — I am not  
very well posted on this & I do  
not want to frame this coll.  
unless it is done correctly &  
also I don't dare to post a  
series of historical notes, without  
having them supervised, for in such  
a public place my statement  
would (or might) be picked to  
pieces & the "Ha Ha" for mine,  
in case of an error.

I had thought of 2 things

- ① Going to Hartford & to your Society  
rooms soon as convenient, &

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compare notes + get what data I can.

- ② Submitting my historical notes to some one who is well posted, for a friendly criticism.

There is "nothing in this" for me + there must be some one, very well posted who would be glad to do this to help out a public library display. Could you suggest anyone who might be willing to do this?

Against your Soc. collection of 1500 I can never hope to compete but I aim to get a collection of at least 100 pieces that will be representative + this is the most I aspire to.

Sincerely H. D. Allen.  
21 Winter St.  
Boston Mass.



March 17th, 1915..

Mr. H. D. Allen,  
21 Winter Street,  
Boston.

Dear Sir:-

As requested in your letter of March 6th I have looked at our copy of Lee's book on the Currency of the Confederate States, and find it is quarto size, twenty seven pages of text, and photographic plates illustrating sixty two notes.

A very good list of the Confederate notes is in Scott's Paper Money Catalogue, which was published some years ago by the Scott Stamp & Coin Company of New York. This catalogue is now out of print, but it turns up occasionally in sales, and it may be that some of the dealers have it.

In my letter of February 24th, I gave you the addresses of William W. Bradbeer, A. Atlas Leve and George H. Blake, as being well posted on paper money. I might add to these Mr. Henry R. Drowne, 54 Pearl Street, Cor. Broad, New York. Whether any of these would be willing to criticize your notes or not, of course I do not know. I would suggest that, should you write to any of them, you write to Mr. Drowne first, and inform him that you are doing it at my suggestion.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

March 22nd, 1918.

Mr. H. D. Allen,  
21 Winter Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Allen:-

Referring to your call of yesterday, our Curator, Mr. Wood, says that he does not hesitate to receive gifts of counterfeits for our files. He also asked me to express the appreciation we all feel of your generous offer to place your duplicates at the disposal of our Society with the understanding that the Society select therefrom any pieces which we may not have, and that we substitute our inferior specimens where there is a superior example in your lot. We should also be very glad to have any of the coins you mention which you care to present to the Society. Mr. Wood is, of course, very glad to learn that you contemplate presenting one of your specimens of the Mechanics Bank five dollar bill.

With regard to the cases concerning which you made inquiry, I beg to advise that they were made by a local cabinet maker at the cost of about one hundred dollars for one unit of three swinging frames. It is possible they might cost more now, but it is possible also that this cost might be reduced because of the fact that you would not need them made so substantially. I would suggest your communicating with The B. Engesser Co., 514-516 West 46th Street, New York, stating very explicitly the purpose for which you desire them.

I hope you will not forget the membership blank you took with you. We should be very glad indeed to include you in our membership.

Yours very truly,

*P.S. Why not try some  
Boston Cabinet Maker  
at the Library Bureau?*

Respectfully,  
Secretary

June 1st, 1918.

Mr. H. T. Allen,  
21 Winter Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Allen:-

Referring to my letter under date of March 22nd I have been wondering how you are succeeding with the exhibition cases about which you asked when you were here. I should like to know what you decided upon, and how it works out.

I trust you will not forget also that you were going to send us your duplicate paper money. I trust we shall see you the next time you visit New York.

Yours very cordially,

Secretary.

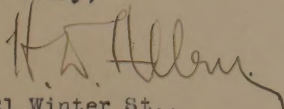
Boston, Mass.,  
June 20, 1918.

Mr. S. P. Noe,  
Sec. American Numismatic Society,  
Bdway, Between 155th & 156th Sts.,  
New York City.

My dear Mr. Noe:-

It is a pity this is such a busy world. I have your kind letters of March 22d and June 1st. Now if you do not believe I am busy, please look at the July Numismatist when it comes to hand. I have struck a snag in regard to my work, or rather two of them. The first is the high cost of exhibition cases owing to present high cost of materials. The nearest thing I could find to what I wanted, and that is not large enough, will cost at present \$395.00. In addition to this, the library people express the opinion that I will be criticised for going ahead on such a luxury as this during the continuence of the War, when every penny of surplus money is supposed to go into bonds, or what my good wife calls "Thrifty Stamps." I therefore feel that I must hold up the matters which I have been intending to put through, but I shall not forget when the matter comes up later.

Yours very truly,



21 Winter St.,  
Boston, Mass.



June 21st, 1918.

Mr. H. D. Allen,  
21 Winter Street,  
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mr. Allen:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 20th, and surely you have difficulties enough and to spare.

I am surprised at the price you mention for the exhibition cases, which is indeed very high. You are doubtless wise in postponing action for the present.

When you get your duplicates in shape, I know that you will let me hear from you, and in the meantime whenever in New York I trust you will feel that we shall be glad to see you.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.